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MINUTES OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR (SUPPORT)

STAFF MEETING

23 November 1955

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1. The meeting was opened by Colonel White who called upon [REDACTED] 1A9a
[REDACTED] Chairman, DD/P Materiel Board, to describe the activities of
the Board.

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[REDACTED] stated that Board was established as a mechanism for
determining materiel needs and priorities. Following a brief general
description of Board activities and responsibilities, he introduced

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[REDACTED] who presented in detail various
Board operations and procedures.

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[REDACTED] noted that the Materiel Board was originally proposed
by the Paramilitary Staff about three years ago and was officially estab-
lished in October 1954. The Board is basically concerned with research,
development, and guidance in the use of materiel in the Clandestine Services.
The Board is obviously concerned with materiel procurement and supply, but
the major emphasis is upon technical development and operational use of
materiel. The operational development cycle normally involved in the process
of obtaining materiel for the Clandestine Services was described. This
cycle commences with the development and refinement of specific materiel
requirements. There follows the technical development of a required item,
consideration of techniques for its use, and practical application and
testing of the item by the development staff and the user. Procurement of
the item, use in pilot operations and finally adoption for general operational
use conclude the normal operational development cycle.

Attention was called to extensive liaison activity, particularly with
research and development staffs of the Department of Defense, which is
required in our own research and development operations. At this time, the
second annual survey of Department of Defense research and development efforts
has just been completed.

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[REDACTED] described the organization and procedures of the Board.
He stressed the fact that the Board was backstopped by working panels composed
of representative experts on given subjects and techniques, thereby bringing
to bear on a specified materiel problem the best counsel available in the
Agency. The progress of a materiel requirement submitted to the Board was
traced to its logical conclusion.

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[REDACTED] spoke concerning the planning and programming of research
and development of materiel requirements. Procedures involving the cataloguing
and classification of materiel requirements and the assignment of priorities

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were described. An over-all accounting system is now in effect thus enabling the Materiel Board to oversee all research and development work and review and direct the total program in accordance with current operational needs.

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[REDACTED] furnished concluding remarks emphasizing the role of the Board in improving the operational capacity of the Clandestine Services and in lending assurance to the DD/S as well as the DD/I of maximum use and economy of materiel procured.

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2. Colonel White thanked [REDACTED] and the other members of the Materiel Board organization for their excellent presentation. He noted that research and development efforts are of vital importance, but from the standpoint of budget, such efforts are routinely difficult to justify. In view of increased restriction of funds available to the Agency, the careful consideration which the Board provides for the procurement and use of materiel takes on added significance.

3. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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